

# Buzzword



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**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, June 20, 2004,  
7:00 p.m.

**Treating AFB-Infected Equipment**

By George Purkett

Bee-ginners Instruction  
6:30 p.m. by Paul Lundy

At Stedman's, Silverdale

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Vice President:  
George Purkett 360-895-9116  
Secretary:  
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**Treatment of Hive Equipment Using a Paraffin Dipping Tank**

By George Purkett, WSBA Vice President

**Basics**

This treatment is very simple. Heat a large pot (tank) of paraffin to 300°F. Submerge the bee equipment for 5 - 20 minutes. Use 5 minutes if treating new equipment as a preservative. Use 20 minutes if treating for potentially AFB infected equipment. I will note this does not work with plastic equipment, which starts to deform and melt around 200°F. The difficult parts are obtaining a suitable pot and operating safely.

**Safety**

There are practical and personal safety

issues that must be mentioned. It takes a large pot to submerge bee equipment. 300°F paraffin will splash and burn easily. At 400°F, the flash point of paraffin is reached and the pot becomes a flaming candle. Water added to the flaming candle will immediately boil and foam up the wax, which will boil over like a pot of potatoes. But unlike the potatoes, the foam will be on fire and the burning candle will come crawling out of the pot. Yes, heat regulation is very important. A lid is mandatory in case of overheating to starve the flame of

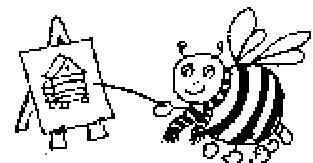
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**Bee-ginners Instruction**

A new program offered by Paul Lundy

**T**his July meeting we introduce "Bee-ginners Instruction" starting a half hour before the general meeting. Paul Lundy has volunteered to give basic instruction for beginners, so if you like setting up chairs, and listening to beginner beekeeper stuff, show up at 6:30 PM. Topics will generally follow the Certified Beekeepers program and will be topical to what you need to do now, a chance to ask questions, and what beekeeping stuff to look forward to next month. All the things to help you care for your bees better as a beginner will try to be included.

When asked why, Paul said, "When I started out I went to beekeeper meetings because caring for the bees was a little scary, and I felt I just couldn't be doing it right. I sat in the meetings enthralled that people could know so much & always learned some tidbit to help me. What kept me going was the beginner class every meeting." Paul welcomes all experienced beekeepers to help beginners when possible. July's topic is Honey, and what the heck to do with it. Also, let's make sure you are providing enough space for your bees, putting honey supers on if the hive is robust, and if the weather continues to be dry provide water so the girls do not go to your neighbor's patio party.



Our condolences and support go out to:



Harley Whitney on the recent death of his wife.

If you know of a member who has been ill or has suffered a loss please let us know at (360) 779-1210 or (360)297-5075

Kudos to Rusty King, a beekeeper with a great attitude towards life. In his words -  
"Each day is a gift."

### WASBA Survey

The Washington State Beekeepers Association is conducting a survey.

Our feedback will help guide the programs they sponsor to help Washington State beekeepers. If you have not received a survey in the mail you can fill out the survey easily and quickly online at [www.easywrite.net/bees](http://www.easywrite.net/bees)

## BASICS IN NORTHWEST BEEKEEPING

Adapted from Ron Bennett (<http://members.aol.com/beetools/>)

**J**uly marks the end of the major nectar flow here in the West Sound. You should make your plans to remove your capped frames of honey from your supers and ready them for extraction. Stedmans may have an extractor to rent. You might want to consider asking another beekeeper to extract for you and save you the mess. But, there is certainly nothing quite as wonderful as the first of the honey from your own bees flowing from the extractor.

You should examine the supers frequently but don't leave empty comb on colonies that are light in stores in the brood nest. The best way to take off full supers is to use the triangular queen escapes. If you are taking your colonies

up to the mountains for fireweed place a couple of empty, drawn supers above the brood boxes, place an escape board above those and replace the full, capped supers above the escape. Within two days the supers with honey should be empty of all bees. If you are not taking your bees to the mountains remove all supers by the end of July so that the bees can pack the brood boxes with any remaining honey that they gather to use for winter stores.

Don't tempt robber bees with exposed honey. When you remove your honey supers from the hive, keep them covered as you collect them. Not only will it make keeping the yellow jackets at bay a little easier, once bees start robbing, it is very difficult to

stop them robbing from other hives.

During July examine each colony every 10 days for queen-rightness. Use a sugar shake test to check for mite load. As always, be vigilant for signs of American Foulbrood.

If you are planning on making nucs for late summer or fall requeening, order queens for July delivery. Requeening is a good management tool for failing hives or hives that have come down with mites or disease or hives with really bad temperament. Having nucs on hand will allow you to successfully requeen colonies late into the year if warranted.

Make your plans for the county fair.



## Message From The President

By Basil Gunther

**T**his is a pretty exciting time of year to be a beekeeper. Some of us are sitting on barrels of honey, many are off on secret missions to the mountains, still others have set new swarming records or found out the maximum number of bees that'll fit on the neighbor's hummingbird feeder. Our last meeting was pretty exciting too. If you didn't feel some strong emotion or another, you just might want to check your pulse! I think I learned more about meetings than bees! Mark Twain once remarked "a person who has had a bull by the tail once has learned 60 or 70 times as much as a person who hasn't." As a new president that means I may have already exceeded my term limits!

One thing I know for sure is that we have differing opinions. That makes us strong. We also have different experiences. That could make us wise. Why our combined beekeep-

ing experience alone totals hundreds of years. Amazing!

When I signed on as president, I remembered former president Paul Hosticka's description of the job: the president runs the meetings, keeps up on the minimal correspondence, acts as a go between to other groups and gets last crack at the refreshment table. I want everyone to know I take the job seriously, especially that last bit. Still, before that second round of snacks, I have to "ride herd" on the meetings. I realize everyone would rather talk bees than association policies, so I am going to take advantage of this newsletter to save us from too much "business", new or old.

Most of you appear to want a set of guidelines for sending members to conventions, if for no other reason than to save valuable meeting time for bee talk. So I am going to

## ...Message From the President (contd. from page 2)

call for volunteers to form The Guidelines Committee. They will also have to decide upon guidelines for using that \$150 Junior Beekeeper allotment we approved last year. We have at least one junior beekeeper waiting in the wings. Once the guidelines are approved, the committee will be through, so it is a short-term commitment. I hope several people will volunteer so our association will be well represented and the guidelines accepted. Radicals and conservatives welcome! Don't keep those junior beekeepers waiting!

For those of you looking for more action, our Program Committee is barely alive (some say not even that). I think we should have at least ten programs a year and only rely on George Purkett to do six or seven of them! That means we still need a Program Committee and I will be calling for volunteers. Come one, come all! And a big thank you to the program recruiters who have kept us going so far!

One last thing for the improvement of meetings and then I'll shut up, really! From up front I can see valuable information getting

lost before it even travels across the room. Someone will ask a question and while someone else is answering, a small group of people will have a quieter conversation. Later, I have found out that some really great ideas were discussed but only a handful of people got to hear it. Our association will really benefit if everyone can hear the great ideas. Also some people have mentioned they have a hard time hearing people during discussions. I think we should make the effort to stand up and speak loud and clear. If my voice isn't loud enough, for instance, give me a big thumbs-up. To me it will look like you think I'm doing a good job and I'll naturally get louder!

We also have to decide where to hold the annual picnic in August and don't forget to register for The Formic Acid Workshop before August 8th!

I hope by mentioning these things now we can buzz through the business and get to the bees-ness!

See you at the meeting **-Basil**



## Minutes of the Last Meeting June 15, 2004 at Stedman's Bee Supplies

President Basil Gunther presided.

### Treasurer's Report:

- \* Joe Grubbs presented a treasurer's report. We have a total of \$5358.62 in checking and savings. We have 62 paid members for the year.

### Old/New Business:

- \* A previously tabled motion was brought up again for discussion. The motion was to send member Chanetta Ludwig to pay the \$350 registration for an Apitherapy Conference. The motion was seconded and passed. A motion was then made to pay \$320 for hotel and \$250 for airfare. During the discussion Harley Whitney gave a gift in memory of his wife, Gloria, to cover \$350 in expenses. The motion was seconded and passed to cover the hotel and airfare for Chanetta.
- \* Bill Ruzicka will be making a presentation on formic acid treatment on August 14th from 1 to 4 p.m. at Stedman's. Registration is \$10.
- \* To work on in the future: creating a policy for members' on-going education.
- \* George Purkett had a question about prescribed ways to eradicate AFB from plastic frames
- \* Question about bear-proof fencing: the University of Montana web site has a diagram for a bear-proof electric fence set up.

### Program:

- \* No program.

### Refreshment Schedule

**Jul:** George Purkett,  
Mike Hoey  
**Aug:** Summer Picnic  
**Sep:** -open-  
**Oct:** -open-

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment to provide refreshments for a meeting please notify Barbara Stedman by giving her a call at 360-692-9453 before the meeting date.

### Formic Acid Workshop

**Stedman's Bee Supplies**  
**August 14th, 2004**  
**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

A three-hour course on:

- \* Safe and effective ways to work with formic acid.
- \* Testing for resistance and treatment efficacy.
- \* Various methods of treatments.
- \* When to treat, missing the cue and re-infestation.
- \* Status of formic acid use in the USA.
- \* Effect of screen bottom boards on fumigation and evaporation treatments.
- \* How to eliminate negative aspects for which formic acid is blamed.
- \* Safe use and handling of liquid formic acid.

Presented by Bill Ruzicka of MiteGone from Canada

Call Basil Gunther at 360-297-5075 or Barbara Stedman at 360-692-9453 for more information

Submitted by: Tricia Sullivan, Secretary, July 15, 2004

## ...Treatment of Hive Equipment Using a Paraffin Dipping Tank (contd. from pg 1)

oxygen.

### **Tank details**

The tank should be large enough to hold either 2 or 4 deeps and be stable enough to not tip over easily. It must have an adjustable heating element that can heat the contents quickly without burning the paraffin and then maintain a relatively constant temperature. Stainless steel is the best material for the tank. Some sort of insulation is required around the tank to cover the hot surfaces. The insulation and a good lid will also help to limit the heat loss.

### **Cost**

The initial cost of making a tank will depend upon how creative you are. The initial purchase of the paraffin is also significant depending upon the size of the

tank. The primary operational cost is the time involved while dipping. There is also the cost of heating the tank and the small paraffin consumed during the operation.



**George's customized dipping tank**

### **Benefits**

There are several benefits. This

process avoids disposal of infected equipment and the replacement cost of new equipment. Any AFB spores present will be killed. The equipment must be painted immediately, if it is to be painted, because paint will not stick to the wax coating left on the equipment. Paint applied will dry in minutes. Also, old frames can be cleaned up quickly but the old combs will dirty the wax in the tank.

### **Live Demo**

I will be treating some hive equipment in a live demo at the association meeting. If you have a favorite box you would like treated bring it along. If you have any paraffin candles you were about to throw away, bring them along and I will dispose of them.



**West Sound Beekeepers Association**  
**3763 NW Anderson Hill Road**  
**Silverdale, WA 98383**  
<http://www.WestSoundBees.org>

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 20**  
**Treating AFB-Infected Hive Equipment**  
**7 p.m. at Stedman's in Silverdale**